

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

February 7, 2012

A Finance Committee meeting was held Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Allen, Moore, Jones, Douglas, Winscott, Curry
Absent: J. Harrison

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, Assessor Glen "Bear" Chaney, Sheriff Keith Ferguson, JP'S Sandlin, King, Comptroller Richard McComas, Accounting Manager Sarah Daniels, Administrator of General Service Elizabeth Bowen, Human Resource Manager Barbara Ludwig, D.E.M. Director Robert McGowen

Tom Sissom – Benton County Daily Record

Chair JP Allen called the meeting to order.

Grants Administrator Report

Administrator of General Service Elizabeth Bowen reported that; 1) Application to the Department of Homeland Security – SHSGP Grant for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) for training has been submitted ; 2) Application to the Department of Homeland Security SHSGP Grant for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) for equipment has been submitted; 3) Application to the Department of Homeland Security – LETTP Grant for open X-ray equipment for the Bomb Squad has been submitted; 4) the Arkansas Department of Rural Services – Rural Community Development Grant for Rocky Branch VFD to purchase a propane emergency generator has been awarded with a 50% match from Rocky Branch VFD; 5) the Arkansas Department of Rural – Fire Protection Grant for NEBCO VFD to purchase a replacement pumper and to update current equipment has been awarded and NEBCO has received \$21,000; 6) the Illinois River Watershed Partnership Grant for a Rain Garden to be built on County property (Road Yard – Hwy 102) has been awarded with at 25% in kind match from the Planning and Environmental Department.

2. Establish Elected Officials' Rates for 2013-2014 Term

JP Allen stated that this resolution request is for the Elected Officials rates for the 2013-2014 term passed by unanimous vote in the Personnel Committee.

JP Curry stated that if this resolution request is passed, that it should be revisited at budget time, and he feels that we shouldn't be giving ourselves raises, and that he is not comfortable with it.

Comptroller Richard McComas stated that in Article 3 of the resolution it states that the intent of the Quorum Court is to establish this pay scale for elected officials beginning January 1, 2013, but these amounts shall not take effect until approved by the Quorum Court through the budget process.

JP Winscott stated that he shared the same concerns as JP Curry that if the economy doesn't continue to grow that he would insist that the pay increase be revisited and adjusted.

JP Allen stated that if something happens where we are not collecting as much money, we will be cutting everything, not just this.

JP Douglas stated that he agreed, as long as we look at the budget first, and that his one concern was raising the salary rates for the Quorum Court members. He added this is a part-time job and that the rate per hour is not bad, and we don't want people to run for office just for the money.

JP Sandlin stated this is not set in stone that it is to make known the proposed amount for anyone who is running for office.

JP Winscott made motion to approve and forward the resolution request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Moore.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

3. 2011 Clean up Appropriation Ordinance Requests

Richard McComas stated these appropriation ordinance requests are to transfer monies between categories and line items, and that the additional appropriations in various departments and funds are necessary to cover expenses for 2011.

a) Jail, Dept 67, Fund 010

JP Allen stated this is a budget adjustment to move from one line item to another to adjust the 2011 Budget.

JP Douglas made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

b) Juvenile Probation, Dept. 29, Fund 472

Richard McComas stated this is to appropriate revenue received and the associated expenditures in this account that was created in 2011.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Douglas.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

c) Circuit Clerk, Dept. 03, Fund 615

JP Allen stated this appropriation ordinance request is to do year end budget cleanup adjustments for 2011.

JP Douglas made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

4. 2012 Budget Amendment Appropriation Ordinance Requests

a) Environmental, Dept. 38, Fund 010

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Northwest Arkansas Planning Commission as provided to the Court and is to

appropriate \$40,000 to pay NWARPC for services rendered and agreed upon in our Interlocal Agreement for 2012 regarding discharges into the Illinois River and other waterways.

JP Winscott made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

b) Assessor's Annex, Dept. 07, Fund 440

JP Allen stated this appropriation request is for \$150,000.00 to complete remodeling of the Assessor's Annex Facility located at 221 S. Main, Bentonville.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that the electrical service couldn't pass inspection and is going to have to be updated, and all of the doors need to be replaced. He added that the building is structurally sound.

JP Douglas made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

c) Prosecuting Attorney, Dept. 21, Fund 440

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to complete the remodeling of the Courthouse Tower East located at 203 E. Central Ave, He added that this is a \$90,000.00 project with a \$8,000 contingency. He stated that the Prosecuting Attorney, Coroner, and Maintenance Department will be moving into this location.

JP Douglas made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Moore.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

d) Dive Team, Dept. 69, Fund 010

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to pay taxes on capital items purchased this year with no new money necessary.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

e) Juvenile Justice Center, Dept. 35, Fund 440

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate an additional \$115,866.00 to complete the Juvenile Justice Center. He added that \$25,000.00 is a new appropriation that will be added to the contingency and \$90,866.00 is a carryover from 2011 to 2012.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that possession of the building will be February 15, 2012, and that the detainees will be moved over the weekend of February 24th.

JP Winscott made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the February 14, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Moore.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

5. Sales Tax Numbers

Richard McComas reported that the county collected \$496,680.00 in January for November's sales tax and that the numbers show a 1.33% increase over last year.

6. Jail Collections

Richard McComas stated January is always a light month for Jail collections, and that we have collected \$23,656.00 since this report was run and that about \$140,000 had been collected. He stated we are up to about \$160,000 for the year. He stated that the December attendance report for the jail shows that we will bill out \$102,000 and that includes state, county, federal and city prisoners. He added that there is no doubt that jail collections are going to be less than what was anticipated.

Sheriff Keith Ferguson stated that we are not seeing a steady decline yet, but that the state is reducing sentencing and turning out more prisoners faster than they have. He added that more state and county offenders will not be going to the Department of Corrections (DOC).

7. Fuel Analysis

Accounting Manager Sarah Daniels reported that in January the Sheriff and the Jail was at \$13,051 or 3% of their budget, and the Road Department was at \$59,141 or 7% of their budget. She stated that compared with last year, the Sheriff and Jail are right on, but in the Road Department we filled our tanks in January whereas we filled up in December last year. She added that average fuel costs have increased 3% with a 17% increase for diesel.

JP Moore stated that since we haven't been having bad weather, they are out doing more road work.

8. Monthly Fund Summary

Sarah Daniels reported on the Monthly Fund Summary report, stating that the General Fund is at 7.83%.

Richard McComas stated that the biggest expenditure was the 40% for the Dive Team for capital expenses for dive team equipment. He added that Department 66, Public Safety paid for BC Alert for a year and that was a \$80,000 expense.

9. Other Business

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that the Quorum Court approved \$1.2 million for the Fisher Ford Bridge and \$600,000 for the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge projects.

County Judge Bob Clinard reported on the estimate received from Crafton Tull from Rogers, Arkansas for estimated engineering and construction costs for the Fisher Ford Bridge project. He reported that the total bridge construction came in at \$1,075,411, with total engineering costs of \$268,125. He stated that the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge would be going out to state bid.

JP Moore stated that he thought that they were going to leave the old bridge in place.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that it has been determined that leaving the old bridge in place would be a liability for the county, and that the bridge is not safe. He stated that there are eight

concrete columns under the bridge and four of them were installed in 1910. He added that they are investigating to see if the columns can be used.

Richard McComas stated that the court had approved \$1.2 million for the Fisher Ford Bridge and \$600,000 for the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge.

JP Jones made motion to allow Judge Clinard to have the authority to sign the Crafton Tull estimate and forward this to the February 14, 2012, Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Winscott.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that the estimate still has to go to the EPA, Corps of Engineers, ADEQ, and the Arkansas State Highway Department of Transportation Department (AHTD), before any type of construction can begin.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that the City of Bentonville will present to the Public Safety Committee the math on how the city came up with their dollars for ambulance services. He stated that the City of Bentonville has asked that Benton County pay \$400 per ambulance call if it results in a patient being transported. He added that Mayor McCaslin has indicated a willingness to wait for a resolution while the county pursues an independent study, and as long as he knows it's going through the process he's fine with it. He stated that his staff has analyzed the city's reimbursement request for ambulance service and will present their report to the Public Safety Committee meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2012.

Lengthy discussion was held on the proposal received from the City of Bentonville for Benton County to pay the City of Bentonville for providing ambulance service in areas outside of the city.

JP Allen stated that the City of Bentonville needs to be charging based on what the cost is, and that he has a feeling that it is not nearly as high as what we have received an invoice for.

JP Moore stated that he would be curious to see what their un-reimbursed costs actually are.

JP Winscott stated that he had asked Mayor McCaslin for out of pocket costs from the City of Bentonville, and that the costs that the Mayor has given us, even included grass cutting. He added as one individual, he doesn't expect the county to pay for turning on the lights, he's going to do that anyway.

JP Jones stated that don't we make donations to the Volunteer Fire Department, even NEBCO out of the General Fund.

Richard McComas stated that the county provides them equipment; and we do purchase fire trucks for the out of town fire departments and also in town.

JP Jones stated that he wanted to look at what the City of Bentonville is recuperating and also what they have to transfer out of their General Fund to cover the costs for all of their EMS services. He stated that if they are not covering their out-of-pocket costs, and subsidize through via General Funds, and they don't show us that, then we're looking at secured numbers.

Richard McComas stated that he would be going over the numbers that were presented Thursday night, to explain the numbers and how they came up with them.

JP Moore stated even though they may not get full reimbursement on their runs in the city, the residents of the city make up, in their taxes. He added that there is also a certain amount of revenue that is generated by the people that live out in the county, that shop in the city.

JP Allen stated that there are a lot of taxes dollars going into the city from the county, and that it needs to get down to providing a service to the people.

JP Allen announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held March 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

JP Moore announced that the next Committee of Thirteen meeting will be held February 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.